

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 21, 2003, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group III, claims 29-38 and 39-41, drawn to a method for training computing devices for classification or identification purposes. The foregoing election of Group III, claims 29-38 and 39-41, is made with traverse. Examination of the subject matter recited in the claims of Groups I-IV would not place a substantially greater burden on the Examiner, for reasons set forth below. Group III claims are drawn to a method for training computing devices for classification or identification purposes. Group I claims are related to a computer program implementing the method of Group III claims; Group II claims are related to a technique for preprocessing information for identification or classification purposes; and Group IV claims are drawn to a system for identifying a substance capable of producing olfactory information, where the system includes a user interface apparatus and an information object, where the information object includes processing as embodied by the Group III claims. Accordingly, Applicants urge the Examiner to withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to consider the claims of Groups I-IV together in the present application.

Alternately, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group III, claims 29-38 and 39-41, drawn to a method for training computing devices for classification or computing purposes, and respectfully request the Examiner to join the elected Group III claims with the Group I claims, for reasons set forth above.

In addition, Applicants have added new claims 51-55, drawn to the invention of Group III, namely, a method for training computing devices for classification or identification purposes. Support for these newly added claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed and, thus, no new matter has been introduced. More particularly, support for newly added claims 51-55 is found, for example, at page 1, lines 29-33 of the specification.

Appl. No. 09/802,513
Response dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Restriction Requirement of 4/21/03

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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